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# Kennedy For Broader Senate Supervision Of CIA

By Thomas J. Foley  
Sun-Times Bureau

WASHINGTON—Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.), who knows more about the nation's spy apparatus than any other man in Congress, has declared his support for broader supervision of the Central Intelligence Agency.

That was the most significant development to emerge from the unsuccessful effort last Thursday to create a formal senate committee to oversee the CIA and the lesser government intelligence agencies.

KENNEDY, who was untitled chief of intelligence for his brother, the late President John F. Kennedy, voted in favor of a resolution which for the first time would have placed members of the Foreign Relations Committee in a position to scrutinize the activities of the CIA.

## Fears A Leak

The resolution was defeated 61 to 28, leaving Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.), chairman of the Armed Services Committee, with virtually sole power to decide how much supervision the Senate was to apply to the CIA.

Russell, who recently admitted that he did not know in advance of the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961, declared Thursday that he rarely tries to find out how the CIA obtains its information lest a leak from his committee endanger the nation's network of spies.

Critics have argued that Russell's hesitancy in such matters has left the CIA free of any real scrutiny by the Senate, which is charged by the Constitution with giving "advice and consent" in the making of foreign policy.

Kennedy, who had supported President Kennedy in opposition to tighter congressional control, did not indicate whether he had now changed his mind. He took no part in either the public or secret debate on the issue in the Senate Thursday.

However, his vote, put him on record at least in favor of giving the Foreign Relations Committee a look at whatever secrets the Senate is able to obtain from the CIA.

## Sought 9-Member Group

The resolution would have created a committee composed of three members each from the Committees on Foreign Relations, Appropriations and Armed Services. The present informal subcommittee is composed of six members of the Armed Services Committee and Sen. Carl Hayden (D-Ariz.), chairman of the Appropriation Committee.

As a senator in 1956, President Kennedy voted for a much stronger resolution that would have established a joint committee with sweeping powers to supervise and investigate the CIA.

After entering the White House, however, he decided there was sufficient machinery within the executive branch for controlling the CIA and that further congressional action would infringe upon the powers of the Presidency.

## Humphrey Ruling Hurt

President Johnson has taken the same position and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, sent to preside over the Senate debate last Thursday, volunteered an advisory parliamentary ruling that hurt the CIA resolution.

At the same time, according to Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.), the originator of the resolution, administration lieutenants in the Senate rounded up votes against it by threats and promises on other issues.

Proponents of the resolution never expected to win against the combined power of the White House and the Senate establishment. But they had hoped to stir up a public debate and create popular pressure for action later.

Their strategy was blunted, however, when Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) and Minority Leader Everett M. Dirksen (R-Ill.) decided to hold the debate secret. A censored transcript will be released this week but with the vote already in it will lack much impact.

## See Eventual Victory

Nevertheless, McCarthy and his supporters are confident that they will eventually carry the day. The U.S. intelligence network is so big (secretly spending about \$4 billion a year), and so involved in activities around the world, that it cannot escape an occasional embarrassing disclosure.

Another Bay of Pigs would certainly provoke a public outcry for greater congressional control. The current situation in Viet Nam might prove the turning point.

"It is well known," Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, declared during the debate, "that this country is involved in a most dreadful and tragic war, in which activity this country is the least unified of any country that I know of."

"It involves a grave responsibility of the Committee on Foreign Relations. I ought to know what part the

CIA plays in situations such as we are involved in Viet Nam and such as we have been involved in . . . in other parts of the world."

Fulbright argued that the resolution, far from hurting the CIA, would help it by "quieting criticism, allaying public fears and restoring confidence in the agency."

Ironically, the resolution was defeated at a time when several high officials in the CIA are coming to share Fulbright's view of this point. They now see much merit in a situation that might put liberals such as Fulbright in a position to defend the agency when it is being unfairly attacked.

But last week, like a majority of senators, they were not prepared to challenge Russell in his determination to reinforce his pre-eminent power in the Senate.